

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

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**ITEM**

**16**

**DECISION**

**TOPIC**

HUSH Annual Contract with the Food Bank of Iowa

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The Department requests Commission approval to renew the annual contract with the Food Bank of Iowa to assist in the administration of the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program.

There are no changes from the previous several years. The expense part of the contract requires the DNR to pay the Food Bank at the rate of \$5 per donated deer, the same rate that has been paid since HUSH began in 2003.

Services provided by the Food Bank include arranging for all the storage and distribution of the ground venison from the 90 individual meat processors (lockers) to the needy Iowa end users, making several payments to each of the 90 lockers for processing, collecting and processing all financial and deer donation records. These services allow the DNR to devote only about 0.3 FTE in the administration of one of the nation's most efficient and largest deer donation programs.

The DNR provides three to four payments per year to The Food Bank of Iowa from revenue provided by the \$1 HUSH fee on each deer license, supplementing the HUSH fee with money from the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund. The Food Bank retains \$5 per deer as an administration payment and uses the rest of the funds to issue payments to meat processors who provide a 'hunter card' for each deer processed. The Food Bank is a federally-recognized charitable organization which has limited paid staff and relies on its host of volunteers.

HUSH income from the \$1 fee was approximately \$380,000 last year. Total payments to the Food Bank under this contract last year was \$584,500, with total payments to meat processors being about \$542,750 and total funds retained by the Food Bank for its administration of the program being \$41,750. This program produced 8,350 donated deer and generated about 1.6 million ¼-pound servings to Iowa's needy.

Ross Harrison, HUSH Coordinator  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
October 9, 2008